

The **essential** magazine for Amiga enthusiasts

AMIGA SHOPPER

Subscription Letter

Issue **53** September 1995

The best Amiga magazine for serious users goes from strength to strength with subscribers getting even more for less.

Dear Subscriber,

By the time you read this letter, we'll already be hard at work halfway through the next issue. So while you drool over the exceptional quality of this issue, we'll be fired up about the top-notch content of next month's AS and with good reason. More cracking disks, a music Supertest that follows on from this month's music feature, great products. And as to the month after that! Phew, I can't begin to tell you. As if things aren't good enough, it just gets better and better, which is exactly the case of the Amiga itself.

Although Escom are still in the early stages of Amiga ownership and after a year with no official development, we are still seeing amazing advances in Amiga technology. This month, we've got an exclusive preview of the second stage of development of Hi-Q's Powerstation. For years we've asked for some degree of PC compatibility, because it's a sad fact that PCs are quite popular and we need to be able to make use of some of their resources. It finally looks as if that may become a possibility, with your Amiga accessing PC accessories and linking to a PC network being just the tip of the iceberg.

With such a bright future being promised after such a cloudy year, make sure you've got your subscription up to date so that you don't miss out on any of the upcoming goodies. Remember that, especially as a subscriber, your constructive criticism is more than welcome in the AS offices so that we can continue to develop the magazine and disks in the way you want them to go. The address to write to is in the letters pages and don't forget that you could win £25 if we choose your letter as the month's star missive.

Well, I won't keep you any longer as I'm sure you want to get to the programs on this month's Subscribers' disk and I'm not surprised. Yet again, it's 100 per cent full with 13 utilities crammed on.

Don't thank us, thank the people who wrote the programs by complying with their shareware notices – some of them just want a postcard or E-mail!



Sue Grant,
Editor.



Sue Grant is the Editor of Amiga Shopper. She has worked in publishing for 13 years and has been at Future Publishing for the past three years, firstly as Production Editor of Super Play, then as Deputy Editor of Amiga Format.

Subscriptionsdisk

*Wrecked with exhaustion after cramming so much on to this month's Coverdisks, we've had to send **David Taylor** off for rehabilitation, but before he went, we made him create a subs' disk to weep for. Cruel, aren't we?*

This month we've got some cracking software for you with some excellent programs to supplement those on the Coverdisks, giving you, the subscribers, extra backup. Every month we think that we've created the best disks that we've ever seen, but this month it's beyond doubt. Of course, I know the treats we've got in store for future issues, but I'm getting ahead of myself. Let's take a look at the three disks of goodies that are packed on to this month's Subscribers' disk...

ZXAM Spectrum Emulator 1.6b

After I spent last month examining the sets of emulators for the Amiga, it seemed only fair that we passed some of them on. So, you'll find Shape Shifter 3, the Mac emulator, on the main disks, but you lucky people have also got this gem. This emulator was rated 92 per cent by Jason Holborn in AS51. It requires an '020 processor or above, but does run on ECS machines.

Once loaded, you'll be able to load in a snapshot of a Spectrum program (there are none included here, because of their dubious copyright status, but PD libraries do stock them – check out the legal status with them before purchase) or you can go to the Spectrum screen.

The most amazing aspect of this emulator is its compatibility. It seems to run all Spectrum programs and is indiscernible from the real thing.

You may be interested to know that as we went to press version 2 of this program was released, so registering will get you upgraded.

MachV

MachV is a multi-functional utility program. It offers mouse enhancements as well as hotkeys for both Shell and Workbench. It even allows different settings for individual windows. In the words of its author, "...the real power of MachV is in its special functions. Macros can be written using these functions to do any mouse action from the keyboard, run programs at a desired time, or interface with Arexx".

Some of the mouse features include Sun mouse, mouse to menu, which jumps the mouse to the menus when you press the right button, the ability to dictate the mouse port and to adjust the interpretation of a middle mouse button.

There are just too many other features to go in to here, but the guide file gives you a full tour and using the program is a doddle. One thing worth mentioning is the clock bar that it creates, which can be fully configured to include memory, co-ordinates, date and a gadget bar.

Image Studio PNG

It can't have escaped your attention that the file standard GIF has been in the news recently. CompuServe posted a notice stating that people using the file format would have to start paying royalties.

With typical Amiga abandon, people said "Sod ya then, we'll write our own". And they have.

PNG is intended to take over from GIF and although isn't officially completed, it is already being offered support by some up-to-date programs. This contains the loader/saver for this file format for the Image Studio 2 program.

The exclusive AS version of the program itself can be found on this month's Coverdisks. This new loader just needs copying to the modules/io/ directory in Image Studio 2.

Amiga Temp

We get quite a few requests for hardware projects and although they don't seem to have mass appeal, we don't like to let anyone down. Here, then, is something to keep your DIY hand in. It contains a software program and directions for the necessary hardware, so that you can use your Amiga to take multiple temperature readings. We'd love to hear how people get on and where they put their thermometers (within reason, of course).

AssignZ

Brilliant. AssignX has been a favourite utility by many for some time and now AssignZ offers the power of AssignX, only more so. When using programs, it's not uncommon to get a requester for a certain volume, when the problem is that you've renamed the disk or put it in a different directory. Now, when this requester is thrown up, you will be offered a GUI that can select and create an assign, mount a volume or deny it. A powerful assign manager that appears automatically when you need it.

And the rest...

Deep breath! OK, that's a quick guide to some of the utilities and here's a mention of the rest.

There's **SIP**, a fantastic system information program, that even allows you to clean up memory after a crash.

A4000HW and **A1200HW** are two text guides to frequently asked questions for A4000 and A1200 users.

Menustay is a neat little utility that saves wear and tear on the mouse, by keeping the menu up after clicking the right mouse button, instead of having to hold it down.

Shell users, will be pleased with **Powersnap**, which gives you the chance to use a clipboard to cut and paste within Shell windows.

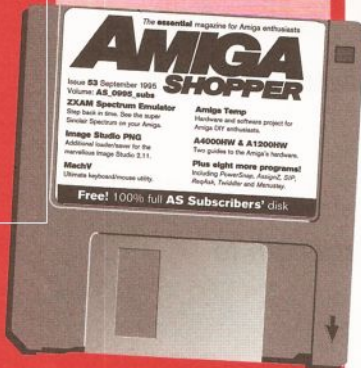
PointerX transforms the boring 'busy' pointer to an animated clock which ticks away as it sleeps.

For the fidgeters amongst you, there's **Twiddler**, which allows you to fiddle around on Workbench when you should be doing something else – it's especially good for messing around with when you are on the 'phone.

Lastly, we've squeezed on **ReqAsk**, a neat command that sends a requester for the ask command instead of waiting for keyboard input.

That brings the total packed on to this month's disk to around a staggering 7Mb! And that is why we won't do two shows a night anymore! We won't!

Until next month, enjoy! ■



- ZXAM Spectrum Emulator
- MachV
- Image Studio PNG
- Amiga Temp
- AssignZ
- A4000HW
- A1200HW
- SIP
- Menustay
- Powersnap
- PointerX
- Twiddler
- ReqAsk

Future
PUBLISHING